

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

To:

ROPES & GRAY LLP
Attn: Leblond, Paul E.
1211 Avenue of the Americas
New York NY 10036
ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE

RECEIVED

JUN 04 2008

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT AND
THE WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
SEARCHING AUTHORITY, OR THE DECLARATION

ROPES & GRAY LLP - PATENT DEPT.
REFERRED TO SEL
NOTED BY _____

File No.: GW/058

Action Desc: Oct 19

Due Date: July 30, 2008

(PCT Rule 44.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year)

30/05/2008

Applicant's or agent's file reference

GW-058 PCT

FOR FURTHER ACTION

See paragraphs 1 and 4 below

International application No.

PCT/US2007/025094

International filing date
(day/month/year)

07/12/2007

Applicant

UNITED VIDEO PROPERTIES, INC.

File No.: GW/058

Action Desc: Written Opin / Int 34

Due Date: Oct 22, 2007

By: SEL

1. ☒ The applicant is hereby notified that the international search report and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority have been established and are transmitted herewith.

Filing of amendments and statement under Article 19:

The applicant is entitled, if he so wishes, to amend the claims of the International Application (see Rule 46):

When? The time limit for filing such amendments is normally two months from the date of transmittal of the International Search Report.

Where? Directly to the International Bureau of WIPO, 34 chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland, Facsimile No.: (41-22) 338.82.70

For more detailed instructions, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

2. ☐ The applicant is hereby notified that no international search report will be established and that the declaration under Article 17(2)(a) to that effect and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority are transmitted herewith.
3. ☐ **With regard to the protest** against payment of (an) additional fee(s) under Rule 40.2, the applicant is notified that:
- ☐ the protest together with the decision thereon has been transmitted to the International Bureau together with the applicant's request to forward the texts of both the protest and the decision thereon to the designated Offices.
- ☐ no decision has been made yet on the protest; the applicant will be notified as soon as a decision is made.

4. Reminders

Shortly after the expiration of **18 months** from the priority date, the international application will be published by the International Bureau. If the applicant wishes to avoid or postpone publication, a notice of withdrawal of the international application, or of the priority claim, must reach the International Bureau as provided in Rules 90bis.1 and 90bis.3, respectively, before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication.

The applicant may submit comments on an informal basis on the written opinion of the International Searching Authority to the International Bureau. The International Bureau will send a copy of such comments to all designated Offices unless an international preliminary examination report has been or is to be established. These comments would also be made available to the public but not before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date.

Within **19 months** from the priority date, but only in respect of some designated Offices, a demand for international preliminary examination must be filed if the applicant wishes to postpone the entry into the national phase **until 30 months** from the priority date (in some Offices even later); otherwise, the applicant must, **within 20 months** from the priority date, perform the prescribed acts for entry into the national phase before those designated Offices.

In respect of other designated Offices, the time limit of **30 months** (or later) will apply even if no demand is filed within 19 months.

See the Annex to Form PCT/IB/301 and, for details about the applicable time limits, Office by Office, see the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume II, National Chapters and the WIPO Internet site.

Name and mailing address of the International Searching Authority



European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL-2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
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Authorized officer

Dana Schalinatus

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NY/PA/DC/BOS**

NOTES TO FORM PCT/ISA/220

These Notes are intended to give the basic instructions concerning the filing of amendments under article 19. The Notes are based on the requirements of the Patent Cooperation Treaty, the Regulations and the Administrative Instructions under that Treaty. In case of discrepancy between these Notes and those requirements, the latter are applicable. For more detailed information, see also the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, a publication of WIPO.

In these Notes, "Article", "Rule", and "Section" refer to the provisions of the PCT, the PCT Regulations and the PCT Administrative Instructions, respectively.

INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING AMENDMENTS UNDER ARTICLE 19

The applicant has, after having received the international search report and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority, one opportunity to amend the claims of the international application. It should however be emphasized that, since all parts of the international application (claims, description and drawings) may be amended during the international preliminary examination procedure, there is usually no need to file amendments of the claims under Article 19 except where, e.g. the applicant wants the latter to be published for the purposes of provisional protection or has another reason for amending the claims before international publication. Furthermore, it should be emphasized that provisional protection is available in some States only (see *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume I/A, Annexes B1 and B2).

The attention of the applicant is drawn to the fact that amendments to the claims under Article 19 are not allowed where the International Searching Authority has declared, under Article 17(2), that no international search report would be established (see *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume I/A, paragraph 296).

What parts of the international application may be amended?

Under Article 19, only the claims may be amended.

During the international phase, the claims may also be amended (or further amended) under Article 34 before the International Preliminary Examining Authority. The description and drawings may only be amended under Article 34 before the International Examining Authority.

Upon entry into the national phase, all parts of the international application may be amended under Article 28 or, where applicable, Article 41.

When?

Within 2 months from the date of transmittal of the international search report or 16 months from the priority date, whichever time limit expires later. It should be noted, however, that the amendments will be considered as having been received on time if they are received by the International Bureau after the expiration of the applicable time limit but before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication (Rule 46.1).

Where not to file the amendments?

The amendments may only be filed with the International Bureau and not with the receiving Office or the International Searching Authority (Rule 46.2).

Where a demand for international preliminary examination has been/is filed, see below.

How?

Either by cancelling one or more entire claims, by adding one or more new claims or by amending the text of one or more of the claims as filed.

A replacement sheet must be submitted for each sheet of the claims which, on account of an amendment or amendments, differs from the sheet originally filed.

All the claims appearing on a replacement sheet must be numbered in Arabic numerals. Where a claim is cancelled, no renumbering of the other claims is required. In all cases where claims are renumbered, they must be renumbered consecutively (Section 205(b)).

The amendments must be made in the language in which the international application is to be published.

What documents must/may accompany the amendments?

Letter (Section 205(b)):

The amendments must be submitted with a letter.

The letter will not be published with the international application and the amended claims. It should not be confused with the "Statement under Article 19(1)" (see below, under "Statement under Article 19(1)").

The letter must be in English or French, at the choice of the applicant. However, if the language of the international application is English, the letter must be in English; if the language of the international application is French, the letter must be in French.

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference GW-058 PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/US2007/025094	International filing date (day/month/year) 07/12/2007	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 22/12/2006
Applicant UNITED VIDEO PROPERTIES, INC.		

This international search report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This international search report consists of a total of 4 sheets.



It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of:



the international application in the language in which it was filed



a translation of the international application into _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1(b))

b. ☐

This international search report has been established taking into account the **rectification of an obvious mistake** authorized by or notified to this Authority under Rule 91 (Rule 43.6bis(a)).

c. ☐

With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I.

2. ☐

Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box No. II)

3. ☐

Unity of invention is lacking (see Box No III)

4. With regard to the **title**,



the text is approved as submitted by the applicant



the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,



the text is approved as submitted by the applicant



the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority

6. With regard to the **drawings**,

a. the figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 1



as suggested by the applicant



as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure



as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention

b. ☐

none of the figures is to be published with the abstract

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

INV. H04N5/76

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

H04N

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2005/076359 A1 (PIERSON ANDREW [US] ET AL) 7 April 2005 (2005-04-07) abstract paragraphs [0003], [0012] paragraph [0030] - paragraph [0037] paragraph [0044] - paragraph [0051] paragraph [0059]	1-12, 18-29
A	paragraph [0067] - paragraph [0069] paragraph [0092] figures 1-11 ----- -/--	13-17, 30-34



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

E earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

& document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

21 May 2008

Date of mailing of the international search report

30/05/2008

Name and mailing address of the ISA/

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Schreib, Franz

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 1 705 908 A (MICROSOFT CORP [US]) 27 September 2006 (2006-09-27)	1, 9-12, 14-18, 26-29, 31-34
A	abstract paragraph [0005] - paragraph [0010] paragraph [0028] - paragraph [0037] paragraph [0056] paragraph [0062] - paragraph [0063] paragraph [0092] - paragraph [0093] paragraph [0100] - paragraph [0115] figures 1-5	2-8, 13, 19-25
X	US 2002/144262 A1 (PLOTNICK MICHAEL A [US] ET AL) 3 October 2002 (2002-10-03)	1, 5, 9-18, 22, 26-34
A	abstract paragraph [0055] - paragraph [0064] paragraph [0091] - paragraph [0101] paragraphs [0109], [0113] paragraph [0125] - paragraph [0130] paragraph [0139] paragraph [0150] - paragraph [0155] paragraph [0171] - paragraph [0179] paragraph [0187] - paragraph [0194] paragraph [0197] paragraph [0221] - paragraph [0230] figures 1-17	2-4, 6-8, 19-21, 23-25
A	EP 1 499 113 A (BRITISH SKY BROADCASTING LTD [GB]) 19 January 2005 (2005-01-19) abstract paragraph [0006] paragraph [0052] - paragraph [0055] paragraph [0064] - paragraph [0067] paragraph [0088] - paragraph [0089] figures 1-8	1-34

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/US2007/025094

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 2005076359	A1	07-04-2005	NONE	
EP 1705908	A	27-09-2006	CN 1838753 A	27-09-2006
			JP 2006270960 A	05-10-2006
			KR 20060102519 A	27-09-2006
			US 2006218617 A1	28-09-2006
US 2002144262	A1	03-10-2002	WO 02082374 A2	17-10-2002
			US 2005097599 A1	05-05-2005
			US 2008040740 A1	14-02-2008
EP 1499113	A	19-01-2005	NONE	

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/US2007/025094

International filing date (day/month/year)
07.12.2007

Priority date (day/month/year)
22.12.2006

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
INV. H04N5/76

Applicant
UNITED VIDEO PROPERTIES, INC.

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☒ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



European Patent Office
D-80298 Munich
Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d
Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465

Date of completion of
this opinion

see form
PCT/ISA/210

Authorized Officer

Schreib, Franz

Telephone No. +49 89 2399-7114



Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - ☒ the international application in the language in which it was filed
 - ☐ a translation of the international application into , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1 (b)).
2. ☐ This opinion has been established taking into account the **rectification of an obvious mistake** authorized by or notified to this Authority under Rule 91 (Rule 43bis.1(a))
3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 - ☐ a sequence listing
 - ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 - ☐ on paper
 - ☐ in electronic form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 - ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
 - ☐ filed together with the international application in electronic form.
 - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
4. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
5. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/US2007/025094

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	<u>6-8,23-25</u>
	No: Claims	<u>1-5,9-22,26-34</u>
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	<u>1-34</u>
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	<u>1-34</u>
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

see separate sheet

Re Item V.

1. Reference is made to the following documents:

D1 : US 2005/076359 A1 (PIERSON ANDREW [US] ET AL) 7 April 2005 (2005-04-07)

D2 : EP 1 705 908 A (MICROSOFT CORP [US]) 27 September 2006 (2006-09-27)

D3 : US 2002/144262 A1 (PLOTNICK MICHAEL A [US] ET AL) 3 October 2002 (2002-10-03)

2. INDEPENDENT CLAIMS

The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claims 1 and 18 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT with respect to D1, D2 and D3 for the following reasons:

- 2.1 Document D1 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document) as in claim 1:

A method for skipping advertisements (*see paragraph 3: Playing alternate content when skipping commercials is a method for skipping commercials*), comprising:

playing back video stored at least partially on a storage device (*see paragraphs 32-33*),

wherein the video includes at least one advertisement (*see paragraph 37*);

receiving a user instruction to skip the advertisement (*see paragraphs 36, 37 and 46*);

displaying, in response to receiving the user instruction, substitute media instead of the advertisement (*see paragraphs 12, 68, 69 and Fig. 10*); and

automatically resuming playback of the recording from a point that follows the end of the advertisement (*see paragraph 69*).

- 2.2 Document D2 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document) as in claim 1:

A method for skipping advertisements (*see paragraph 7*), comprising:
playing back video stored at least partially on a storage device (*see paragraph 62: The reproduced video is at least partially buffered. Therefore it is at least partially stored in a memory which is a storage device*),
wherein the video includes at least one advertisement (*see paragraph 62*);
receiving a user instruction to skip the advertisement (*see paragraph 103*);
displaying, in response to receiving the user instruction, substitute media instead of the advertisement (*see paragraphs 101, 105 and 110: Key frames of the advertisement already are substitute media. Paragraph 110 clearly states can be received independently of the advertisement*); and
automatically resuming playback of the recording from a point that follows the end of the advertisement (*see paragraphs 104, 105 and Figure 5*).

- 2.3 Document D3 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document) as in claim 1:

A method for skipping advertisements (*see paragraph 55*), comprising:
playing back video stored at least partially on a storage device (*see paragraph 55: A VCR stores the reproduced video on a storage device*),
wherein the video includes at least one advertisement (*see paragraph 55*);
receiving a user instruction to skip the advertisement (*see paragraph 59*);
displaying, in response to receiving the user instruction, substitute media instead of the advertisement (*see paragraph 59*); and
automatically resuming playback of the recording from a point that follows the end of the advertisement (*see paragraphs 93 and 101*).

- 2.4 The subject-matter of system claim 18 corresponds to the subject-matter of method claim 1. Therefore the arguments of sections 2.1-2.3 also apply to claim 18.

3. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

Dependent claims 2-17, 19-34 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in

respect of novelty and/or inventive step (Article 33(2) and (3) PCT).

- 3.1 The subject-matter of claims 2-4 and 19-21 is not novel with respect to D1. D1 discloses in paragraph 32 that live programs are cached in a storage device and other programs are stored on a persistent storage device.
- 3.2 The subject-matter of claims 5 and 22 is not novel with regard to D3. D3 discloses in paragraph 91 that Video on Demand is one source for the recorded programming containing advertisements.
- 3.3 The subject-matter of claims 6-8 and 23-25 is not inventive with respect to D1. According D1, paragraph 69 the substitute media is displayed only during the commercial break. Therefore it is obvious for the person skilled in the art that the duration of the advertisements is determined and in this way retrieved by the system of D1. Another embodiment of D1 in paragraph 59 discloses that the program content is delayed if the substitute media is longer than the originally presented media. Also in this case it is obvious for the person skilled in the art that the system has retrieved a length of time for displaying substitute media.
- 3.4 The subject-matter of claims 9 and 26 is not novel. Document D1 shows in paragraphs 12 and 48-51 that an image, a single video frame or a graphic are displayed. Document D2 shows in paragraph 28, that any kind of multimedia file is used as a substitute media. Document D3 shows in paragraphs 63 and 64 e.g. flash videos and graphics are used as substitute media. D3, Fig. 17 also gives examples for using icons.
- 3.5 The subject-matter of claims 10-12 and 27-29 is not novel. D1 discloses in paragraph 66 that the substitute media is selected according to the stored user preferences. To be able to do so the apparatus of D1 must be able to identify advertisement data. Another interpretation of advertisement data are special data in the video stream indicating how to select the substitute data. D2 discloses this form of advertisement data which are called "identifying information" in paragraph 56. Another interpretation

of advertisement data are more detailed information about the product that is advertised. D2 discloses this form of advertisement information in paragraph 112. Document D3 discloses in paragraphs 226 and 227 that advertisement data are used to select an alternative advertisement. In D1-D3 the advertisement data are transmitted in the video data or in a stream associated with the video stream.

- 3.6 The subject-matter of claim 13 and 30 is not novel with respect to D3. D3, paragraphs 221-225 and Figure 17 show that the layout for displaying the data can have a plurality of forms. In D3, paragraph 224 it is said that it is determined by the network operator. Therefore it is transmitted with the advertisement data.
- 3.7 The subject-matter of claims 14-17 and 31-34 is not novel. D2 discloses in paragraphs 101, 102 that single frames of the skipped advertisements are displayed. These single frames are related to the skipped advertisement. Paragraph 110 need not be related to the skipped advertisement. Key frames also represent fewer frames than the original advertisement.
- D3 discloses in paragraph 59 that the substitute data can be related or not. In D3, paragraph 60 it is said that there can be brief segments of the original advertisements which naturally are derived from the video.

Re Item VIII.

4. The application does not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT for the following reasons:
- 4.1 The question is whether the term "skipping" in claims 1 and 18 implicitly means that the substitute media have less duration than the original advertisement.
- 4.2 It is not clear what is meant by "advertisement data associated with advertisement" in claims 10 and 27. The advertisement itself already consists of advertisement data.

Possible steps after receipt of the international search report (ISR) and written opinion of the International Searching Authority (WO-ISA)

General information

For all international applications filed on or after 01/01/2004 the competent ISA will establish an ISR. It is accompanied by the WO-ISA. Unlike the former written opinion of the IPEA (Rule 66.2 PCT), the WO-ISA is not meant to be responded to, but to be taken into consideration for further procedural steps. This document explains about the possibilities.

Amending claims under Art. 19 PCT

Within 2 months after the date of mailing of the ISR and the WO-ISA the applicant may file amended claims under Art. 19 PCT directly with the International Bureau of WIPO. The PCT reform of 2004 did not change this procedure. For further information please see Rule 46 PCT as well as form PCT/ISA/220 and the corresponding Notes to form PCT/ISA/220.

Filing a demand for international preliminary examination

In principle, the WO-ISA will be considered as the written opinion of the IPEA. This should, in many cases, make it unnecessary to file a demand for international preliminary examination. If the applicant nevertheless wishes to file a demand this must be done before expiry of 3 months after the date of mailing of the ISR/ WO-ISA or 22 months after priority date, whichever expires later (Rule 54bis PCT). Amendments under Art. 34 PCT can be filed with the IPEA as before, normally at the same time as filing the demand (Rule 66.1 (b) PCT).

If a demand for international preliminary examination is filed and no comments/amendments have been received the WO-ISA will be transformed by the IPEA into an IPRP (International Preliminary Report on Patentability) which would merely reflect the content of the WO-ISA. The demand can still be withdrawn (Art. 37 PCT).

Filing informal comments

After receipt of the ISR/WO-ISA the applicant may file informal comments on the WO-ISA directly with the International Bureau of WIPO. These will be communicated to the designated Offices together with the IPRP (International Preliminary Report on Patentability) at 30 months from the priority date. Please also refer to the next box.

End of the international phase

At the end of the international phase the International Bureau of WIPO will transform the WO-ISA or, if a demand was filed, the written opinion of the IPEA into the IPRP, which will then be transmitted together with possible informal comments to the designated Offices. The IPRP replaces the former IPER (international preliminary examination report).

Relevant PCT Rules and more information

Rule 43 PCT, Rule 43bis PCT, Rule 44 PCT, Rule 44bis PCT, PCT Newsletter 12/2003, OJ 11/2003, OJ 12/2003